

**FY2008 NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA UNDERGRADUATE
EXCHANGE PROGRAM RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT
(DEADLINE DATE MARCH 1, 2008)**

1. SUMMARY: THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE COMPETITION FOR THE FY 2008 NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE PROGRAM (NESA UGRAD).

FUNDED BY THE ECA OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE NESA UGRAD PROGRAM PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ONE SEMESTER OR ONE ACADEMIC YEAR OF U.S. STUDY IN A NON-DEGREE PROGRAM. THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE AT A U.S. COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TO A DIVERSE GROUP OF EMERGING STUDENT LEADERS FROM NON-ELITE UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA AND SOUTH ASIA.

NESA UGRAD PARTICIPANTS MUST RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM **AND MAY NOT STAY ON** FOR DEGREE STUDY IN THE U.S.

2. BACKGROUND: THE NESA UGRAD PROGRAM IS A PART OF ECA,S GLOBAL UNDERGRADUATE INITIATIVE DEVELOPED TO MEET AND REFINED ON-GOING COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE A LARGE AND DIVERSE GROUP OF STUDENT LEADERS WITH IN-DEPTH EXPOSURE TO U.S. SOCIETY, CULTURE AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS BY ENGAGING IN SUBSTANTIVE ACADEMIC EXCHANGES AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

3. PROGRAM DESIGN: THE NESA UGRAD PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE FULL SCHOLARSHIPS TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS FROM NON-ELITE, UNDER-REPRESENTED SECTORS IN THE NEAR EAST INCLUDING ALGERIA, BAHRAIN, EGYPT, ISRAEL, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LIBYA, MOROCCO, OMAN, THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, TUNISIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, AND YEMEN, AND FROM SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES OF INDIA, PAKISTAN, AND BANGLADESH FOR ONE SEMESTER OR ONE ACADEMIC YEAR OF NON-DEGREE UNDERGRADUATE STUDY AT ACCREDITED U.S. TWO- AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS. ALL ACADEMIC FIELDS OF STUDY ARE ELIGIBLE. FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2008-09, THE PROGRAM WILL PLACE APPROXIMATELY 150 PARTICIPANTS AT U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, OF WHICH NO LESS THAN 40 PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PLACED FOR THE FULL ACADEMIC YEAR. SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED FOR ONE SEMESTER (APPROXIMATELY FIVE MONTHS) OR ONE ACADEMIC YEAR (APPROXIMATELY 10 MONTHS) DEPENDING UPON THE STUDENT APPLICANT'S INTERESTS AND AVAILABILITY, AS WELL AS PLACEMENT OPTIONS AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

BOTH SEMESTER AND ACADEMIC YEAR SCHOLARSHIP PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ENROLLED FULL-TIME IN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE WORK CHOSEN FROM A HOST INSTITUTION'S EXISTING CURRICULUM TO ALLOW STUDENTS AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE INTERACTION WITH U.S. FACULTY AND STUDENT PEERS, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPOSURE TO U.S. ACADEMIC AND CLASSROOM CULTURE. IN ADDITION, TO HELP ENSURE STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR NEW ACADEMIC

ENVIRONMENTS, HOST INSTITUTIONS WILL OFFER TAILORED INSTRUCTION ON TOPICS INCLUDING ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND WRITING, CRITICAL THINKING, TIME MANAGEMENT, NOTE-TAKING, AND STUDYING FOR AND TAKING TESTS. PARTICIPANTS WILL LIVE ON-CAMPUS WITH AMERICAN PEERS.

STUDENTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES. ADDITIONALLY, AN INTERNSHIP COMPONENT WILL BE OFFERED FOR ALL FULL ACADEMIC YEAR PARTICIPANTS DURING THE ACADEMIC COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM. INTERNSHIPS WILL BE RELATED TO THE PARTICIPANT'S FIELD OF STUDY AND/OR CAREER PLANS.

THE LENGTH AND START DATE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WILL DEPEND UPON THE STUDENT APPLICANT'S INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY, AS WELL AS PLACEMENT OPTIONS. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CHOOSE THEIR HOST INSTITUTION. THIS IS A NON-DEGREE PROGRAM AND IT WILL BE THE STUDENTS, RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK WITH THEIR HOME INSTITUTION REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF CREDITS ACCUMULATED DURING THE PROGRAM.

4. ELIGIBILITY: SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE GRANTED PRIMARILY TO STUDENTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM. HOWEVER, INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ABOUT TO ENTER THEIR FIRST YEAR OF UNIVERSITY STUDIES IN THE 2008-09 ACADEMIC YEAR AT HOME WILL ALSO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAM. CANDIDATES SHOULD BE HIGHLY MOTIVATED NON-ELITE OR UNDERPRIVILEGED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS FROM COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SELECTED COUNTRIES WHO DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP THROUGH ACADEMIC WORK, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. THEIR MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY WILL BE VARIED, AND WILL INCLUDE THE SCIENCES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES, EDUCATION AND BUSINESS. ALL CANDIDATES SHOULD HAVE A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH AND HAVE CERTIFICATION (IDEALLY, THE TOEFL EXAM, BUT THE ITP TOEFL WILL BE ACCEPTABLE) OF ENGLISH ABILITY APPROPRIATE FOR CIRCULATION TO U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR PLACEMENT PURPOSES. THE PREFERRED TOEFL EXAM RESULT WILL BE 550; HOWEVER A LOWER TEST RESULT SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE THEM FROM BEING A FINALIST/ALTERNATE, IF THEY MEET ALL OTHER CRITERIA.

5. APPLICATION PACKAGE: A COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKAGE WILL INCLUDE A HARD COPY AND ELECTRONIC PDF FILE OF THE FOLLOWING:

APPLICATION FORM
TRANSLATED ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS
LETTERS OF REFERENCE
TOEFL (ITP TOEFL) SCORE REPORT

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THEIR AWARDS BY MAY/JUNE 2008.

IT IS LIKELY THAT SELECTED CANDIDATES WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT THEIR NOMINATION TO PARTICIPATE (BY SIGNING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS) PRIOR TO THEIR NOTIFICATION OF THEIR PLACEMENT AT A HOST UNIVERSITY.

